
From: Talley, Noelle S [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD9F3882421746BCB5A60CBE82CDFF89-NSTALLEY]
Sent: 8/7/2017 10:12:12 AM
To: White, Julia W [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d92f33e7d43e44a9b15d6ec92e2348cb-jwbuckner]; Cole, Samantha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=49a7b2fa4f2e49dc89409a50359461ab-scole4]; Porter, Ford C [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b78085a114554c8ba8f58bfffaf3e6db0-fcporter]; Little, Jamal [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=69149c51192e44eed4fc5f6b56d18ab-jlittle6]; Barker, Paul E [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aca4172135b1438a9b6bf9ed4265f2b6-pebarker1]; Holl, Eric J [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=34af852279554311bf577ab3b4532109-ejholl]; Weiner, Sadie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=df98bd64929043eeaab54e589dd7d1b2-asweiner]; Crichlow-Mack, Toya [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4b84996a1d3f42e7a5d21ac7385a877f-tcrichlow-m]
Subject: FW: Insider for August 7, 2017

From: insider@ncinsider.com
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 10:10:51 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: NC Insider
Subject: Insider for August 7, 2017



YOU DON'T SAY...

"I'm in a non-competitive district so I don't have to do anything."

Rep. Grier Martin, D-Wake, on the district he represents in Wake County where he's won easily the last several elections.

WRAL NEWS, 8/06/17

Table of Contents - The Insider for August 7, 2017

- [News Summary](#)
- [Legislative Studies and Meetings](#)

- [N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings](#)
- [N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality](#)
- [UNC Board of Governors](#)
- [N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule](#)
- [Other Meetings and Events of Interest](#)

News Summary

Election Limbo

The N.C. Court of Appeals has declined to review an election complaint that was kicked up to the court because neither the state nor Carteret County currently has an active elections board -- leaving the complaint in legal limbo. The complaint involves a municipal election and was referred to the court because Carteret County's elections board has too many vacancies to take action, and the state elections board is vacant. Andrea Smith is challenging the eligibility of three candidates for mayor and city council in Morehead City, arguing the candidates don't live within the boundaries of the city.

But it now appears that there won't be a ruling on the candidates' eligibility until Gov. Roy Cooper's lawsuit challenging changes to the state elections board is resolved. On Aug. 2, a clerk for the N.C. Court of Appeals wrote to Smith. "Because the North Carolina State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement has not entered a decision in this matter, it does not appear that the North Carolina Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to take any action on your letter and attached documents," clerk Daniel M. Horne Jr. wrote. The letter doesn't say which of the court's judges, if any, were involved in the decision. State law directs appeals of state election board decisions to the Court of Appeals.

The unusual situation stems from Cooper's lawsuit challenging a Republican-sponsored law that merges the state's election and ethics boards and creates a new board with an even number of Republicans and Democrats -- instead of the Democratic majority Cooper could have appointed under the old system. The N.C. Supreme Court will take up the appeal in August, but for now, the court has issued an order that keeps the agencies merged but doesn't require any appointments to the new board.

The new board would be responsible for filling the county board in Carteret and elsewhere, and while some county boards still have three members who can take action on complaints, a resignation means Carteret only has two board members -- short of the three-member quorum required. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 8/07/17).

Partisan Districts

North Carolina lawmakers should avoid partisan considerations when they redraw legislative district maps that were struck down by federal courts, a parade of speakers said Friday. Nearly all of the 30 speakers at a joint House-Senate committee meeting on the map criteria asked GOP leaders to ignore data such as past election results, voter registration and where incumbents live when drawing the new boundaries later this month. Many pressed for a nonpartisan process handled by an outside commission. "I want to see the end of political gerrymandering. Districts cannot be drawn intentionally or unduly favoring any political party," unaffiliated voter Amy Porter from Alamance County told lawmakers. "Remember that you work for us."

The current maps, approved by the General Assembly in 2011, contributed to helping Republican expand their majorities in the General Assembly and carry out their conservative agenda. Three judges in August 2016 threw out 28 of the House and Senate districts as illegal racial gerrymanders, but the ruling wasn't finalized until a U.S. Supreme Court decision in June. Voters who sued accused GOP mapmakers of needlessly creating too many majority-black voters in the districts to make surrounding districts more white and Republican. No independent redistricting commission will be created when the legislature reconvenes Aug. 18 to begin the remapping process before a Sept. 1 deadline by the three-judge panel to receive the approved maps. And past election results are likely to be among the criteria the committees agree to use when standards are finalized next week, Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett, senior chairman of the House Redistricting Committee, said after the meeting.

Lewis told reporters that the public comments would be reviewed, along with proposed criteria from Democratic legislators, and some could be incorporated. The requests from Friday's speakers for an open process also have been heard, he said. "I hope that we will be able to bridge that gap and to conduct a politically transparent process," Lewis said. "I think that people will be pleased with the process."

Republicans say more than 100 of the legislature's 170 districts likely will have to be redrawn, but districts across wide swaths of western and southeastern North Carolina likely will remain unchanged because they aren't near the districts that the courts rejected, according to documents presented in committee. Courts have ruled on whether it's unacceptable to use race in redistricting, but gerrymandering for partisan gains has not been struck down by courts as unlawful. A Wisconsin case on partisan gerrymandering will soon be considered by the Supreme Court.

Still, the speakers largely focused on minimizing politics in drawing the maps. Partisanship in redistricting, they said, has contributed to dozens of seats where incumbents run unopposed. Some speakers acknowledged that Democrats drew maps to benefit them politically when they were in charge in previous decades. "I want my vote to matter," said Ira Botvinick of Raleigh. "Redistricting should foster, to the great extent possible, competition so as to provide better government for all North Carolinians."

North Carolina Republican Party Executive Director Dallas Woodhouse urged legislators to resist creating districts solely to favor Democrats in a state where Donald Trump carried 76 of 100 counties and other Republicans have been successful in statewide races. "It is not the job of the committee to make that party competitive when it cannot do so itself in huge areas of the state," Woodhouse said. He also urged lawmakers to leave out racial data from their deliberations. Republicans said they didn't look at the racial composition of the electorate when a court ordered them to redraw congressional districts in February 2016. In fact, GOP lawmakers agreed then over Democratic objections to criteria for boundaries that would help Republicans keep a 10-3 seat advantage within the state's congressional delegation. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 8/04/17).

Athletic Tax Breaks

As local officials debate public money for sports, a little-noticed General Assembly bill would give the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Knights tax breaks amounting to more than a half-million dollars a year. The measure involves property taxes the teams pay for land they lease from the government.

Supporters say the tax is unfair because the teams pay taxes on land they don't own. Critics say the legislation would benefit wealthy teams at the expense of taxpayers. The brief provision is contained in Senate Bill 114, a measure that deals mainly with arcane changes to revenue and criminal law. Passed by the House, it awaits another Senate vote. It comes as Mecklenburg County and Charlotte officials are in the middle of a contentious debate over the use of public money for private sports teams.

The provision in SB114 would exempt entities from property taxes on public land leased at below-market value. The Panthers lease 34 acres of public land from the city for \$1 a year. The Knights lease land from the county. The Panthers pay property taxes on the team-owned Bank of America Stadium. But under a deal in place for 20 years, they also pay property taxes on the land they lease for the stadium and practice field, land with a tax value of \$27.6 million. Under the deal, that's about 42 percent of its full tax value. This year their tax bill on the land is \$357,000.

The Knights would pay \$166,000 on the uptown property they lease for BB&T Stadium. The land's tax value is \$12.5 million. Panthers' attorney Richard Thigpen said the team has tried to get exempted from the tax for years. "We don't mind paying our fair share of taxes but this was an anomaly," he said Friday. "It's a tax fairness issue. It's not a rich sports entity asking the government to give us a bunch of money because we're not asking for that." Last month Forbes Magazine valued the Panthers at \$2.075 billion. It said the average NFL team had an operating profit of \$91 million.

Rep. Bill Brawley, R-Mecklenburg, who co-chairs the House Finance Committee, offered the amendment that included the tax change. "I believe that treating taxpayers fairly is important," he

said. "Even if it's the Panthers they should be treated fairly. This is a fair tax treatment for an intangible piece of personal property."

Intangibles are non-physical assets such as stocks and bonds and, in this case, leaseholds. Lawmakers repealed the state's intangibles tax in 1994. Unlike many NFL teams, the Panthers built the stadium with private money. But they have benefited from public support.

The team is currently making \$47 million worth of renovations with the help of \$17 million from the city. It's part of a deal the Panthers agreed to with the city in 2013. That year, the Charlotte City Council voted to give the Panthers \$87.5 million, of which \$75 million would be spent on renovations. In return, the team agreed to remain in Charlotte for at least six years, with penalties if it moves in the four years after that.

The Senate bill with the tax provision passed the House 113-1 in late June. It was considered Thursday by the Senate but referred to the Rules Committee. It's not clear when it would come back for a vote, though the General Assembly reconvenes Aug. 18.

Mecklenburg Commissioner Pat Cotham said she doesn't like it. "It kind of gives me pause," she said Friday. "These are multi-million dollar organizations and that's a half-million dollars that would affect the county. We have a lot of needs in our county and we look to our large organizations to pay their fair share." But Republican Commissioner Jim Puckett called it "a fairness issue."

Brawley said there are a handful of other entities in the state that also would benefit from the change because they pay taxes on land they lease for below-market rates. He said the proposed MLS stadium in Raleigh also would benefit. A group trying to bring soccer to the capital proposed privately building a \$150 million stadium on 13 acres of downtown land owned by the state. WRAL reported this week the land is valued at at least \$91 million.(Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 8/04/17).

Campaign Fundraising

The last of the campaign finance reports for the first half of 2017 have been posted online, and several state leaders have brought in six-figure fundraising in the months far ahead of the next election.

House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, reported raising \$211,471, ending the period on June 30 with \$414,189 on hand. Those figures put Moore behind Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, who reported raising \$475,327, with \$559,219 on hand. Among House Democrats, Rep. Graig Meyer, D-Orange, posted the biggest fundraising numbers with \$105,453 raised and \$35,755 on hand. Meyer's biggest expenses this year included \$5,250 for video production services, \$8,399 on a staff salary and a \$30,000 contribution to the N.C. Democratic Party's House caucus fund. Meyer has been leading House Democrats' efforts to break the GOP supermajority in 2018 through an initiative called "Our Shot."

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, a Republican who's expected to run for governor in 2020, has also been busy fundraising. He raised \$267,161 and has \$154,479 on hand. His biggest expenses included payments to several campaign staffers, \$3,940 on Facebook ads and \$5,246 on campaign legal services with the firm of Steven Walker, who also serves as general counsel for the lieutenant governor's office. Gov. Roy Cooper's campaign raised \$447,153 and has \$532,147 on hand.(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 8/07/17).

Campaign Finances

Campaign finance disclosures for North Carolina politicians were due to the state early last week, and there are lots of them. A query of the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement's online repository turns up more than \$16.5 million that was either donated or changed hands between political campaigns between Jan. 1 and June 30. On the off chance you have not had time to review these records, we breezed through a few of them for you.

State law limits who can donate to state legislators, the governor and other statewide elected officials during the regular legislative session. So, when are the fundraisers? Often right before that deadline. Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue logged \$14,150 in donations over the six-month period. All but one is dated Jan. 24, the day before session opened. Most of the money came from industry or other special interest PACs. Lobbying powerhouse McGuire Woods gave \$46,300 through its PAC in the days just before session, including donations to both state parties.

The State Employees Association of North Carolina was the second-most generous donor, based on a query for donations logged on Jan. 24 or Jan 25, the first day of session. SEANC gave at least \$26,000 through its PAC. McGuire Woods said through a spokesman that it scrupulously adheres to campaign finance laws and high ethical standards. The political director for SEANC's PAC said her board met just days before the session to decide who it would support. The legislature's odd scheduling – coming into session briefly on Jan. 11, then going back out and coming back in – also compressed the giving window. All of the group's checks were signed by Jan. 24, Amanda Finelli said. "Really, it was just a crunch for time," she said. "I've worked in a lot of different states with a lot of different campaign finance laws," Finelli said. "I don't think there is a perfect campaign finance law."

State law bans regular session contributions only to and from particular people. Generally, lobbyists and lobbyist principals – the organization or person who hires the lobbyist – may not give to legislators or other statewide officials. That still leaves a lot of money flowing during session.

Sen. Joel Ford's mayoral bid in Charlotte got a boost from colleagues across the aisle. Sens. John Alexander, R-Wake, Jerry Tillman, R-Randolph, and Tommy Tucker, R-Union, all donated to the Democrat's campaign. Senate Rules Chairman Bill Rabon, R-Brunswick, gave \$5,000. House Rules Chairman David Lewis, R-Harnett, gave \$100, not from his campaign fund, but from his own pocket. Except for Tucker, none of these men live in or around Charlotte. Perhaps it's legislative camaraderie. Perhaps they'd like to see Ford, a Mecklenburg Democrat known to cross the aisle on important votes, win a primary against Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts, who fought the legislature's GOP majority over House Bill 2 the last few years. Lewis called Ford "the Democrat I prefer to win that primary."

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest spent more than \$6,000 in campaign cash on meals over the last six months. Add another \$1,045 for refreshments, and that's well over \$1,000 a month. The reason? Forest's Chief of Staff Hal Weatherman said the campaign pays for food at both political and official government meetings around the state. "We do so because of the small size of our government operating budget for the office of Lt. Governor," Weatherman said via email. The Lt. Governor's Office will get about \$794,000 this year from the state's general fund.

The Forest campaign also spent about \$3,300 in campaign cash on hotels over the last six months, most commonly at the North Raleigh-Midtown Hyatt. Forest lives in Raleigh and the hotel charges aren't for him, Weatherman said. The campaign brought consultants to Raleigh, he said, and other hotel charges cover lodging for campaign staff as they travel in state and out. Gov. Roy Cooper spent nearly \$9,000 on lodging during this period, but \$5,000 of that was for a single transition chair's lengthy stay at the Marriott City Center downtown.

A lot of campaign coverage focuses on money raised, but the money spent to raise that money can be phenomenal. Consider Cooper's campaign account. He doesn't face re-election until 2020, but of course, he's gearing up to help Democrats win legislative seats next year in an attempt to break the GOP's veto-proof majority. Over six months, his campaign spent nearly \$686,500, including:

- \$10,335 on catering
- \$8,680 on credit card fees to process donations
- \$3,711 on stationery and envelopes
- \$12,602 on postage
- \$22,400 acquiring lists of potential donors
- \$66,102 in payroll taxes
- \$11,066 on telephones and telephone service

Cooper actually raised less than he spent, looking just at his campaign committee. But much of his focus was on raising money for the state Democratic Party, which brought in about \$1.7 million over the period.

Rep. Grier Martin's campaign offers a snapshot of political reality: He just about can't lose his Wake County district, and he knows it. Martin heads up candidate recruitment and fundraising for House Democrats coming into the next election cycle, but he essentially ignored his own fundraising, logging three donations for a total of \$289.30. "We need to get more competitive

districts," Martin said. Martin also told a story he's relied on to push back against gerrymandering, which he, other Democrats, good-government groups and the U.S. Supreme Court have all said North Carolina Republicans engaged in when they drew legislative maps in 2011, which are now being redrawn by court order.

Martin's last competitive race was 2010, the year Republicans took over the General Assembly and redrew maps previously designed by legislative Democrats. Martin said he campaigned and knocked on doors that year, "seven days a week, rain or shine." "I was out talking to my voters," Martin said. "A one-on-one job application interview. ... Since I've been drawn into a safe district, I've knocked on zero doors." Last year, 15 of 50 state Senate seats were uncontested in the November general elections. In the House, it was 56 of 120 seats. That didn't include Martin's seat, which he won with 68 percent of the vote. Another dozen House contests were even more lopsided, won with at least 70 percent of the November vote.(Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 8/06/17).

State Employee Pay

The highest-paid employee in North Carolina's state agencies just quit. So who's the state worker with the biggest salary now? Before announcing his retirement last week, Kevin SigRist, the chief investment officer in state Treasurer Dale Folwell's office, had been earning nearly \$400,000 a year to guide the state pension plan's \$94 billion in investments.

The treasurer's office employs 40 people making at least \$120,000 and 11 people making more than \$200,000. Most are money managers who advise the treasurer on how to invest the state's pension fund. SigRist, hired in 2013 to manage the pension plan, was making an annual salary of \$387,081 after getting a \$1,000 raise July 1. The treasurer's office announced his resignation July 24. He was the second top administrator at the state treasurer's office to abruptly resign this summer. The head of the state health plan quit in May.

With SigRist leaving, that means someone else gets his or her turn in the spotlight as the highest-paid state employee. You won't find Gov. Roy Cooper on the list of highest paid employees -- he makes \$144,349 a year and isn't even the highest-paid person in his own office. Cooper's chief of staff, Kristi Jones, makes \$152,000 a year. Replacing SigRist as the new No. 1 is Larry Wheeler, whose job is about as different from an investment manager as possible. Wheeler is an art historian and the director of the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. He started working for the state in 1974, has been the museum's director for more than two decades and earns \$295,788 a year.

Next is George Krebs Jr., a psychiatrist with the Department of Health and Human Services. He makes \$293,243 and has worked for the state since 1988, mostly at Broughton Hospital in Morganton, which serves people in western North Carolina with mental health needs. Including Krebs, three of the five highest paid state agency workers work at psychiatric hospitals.

The others work at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, which recently was the subject of a News & Observer investigation into large raises for the doctors there. Earlier this spring, the hospital was also refusing to admit patients, despite having empty beds, claiming a doctor shortage. James Mayo, Cherry's director, earns \$288,924 a year. He's been with the state 34 years. Another psychiatrist there, Paul Kartheiser, makes \$275,344 a year. He's been state employee since 2006. A West Point grad, Paul Cozza worked for several large companies before being hired to run the state's ports in 2014. He makes \$275,000. The ports in Wilmington and Morehead City are among the 100 busiest in the country, and they contribute an estimated \$700 million to the state economy each year.(Will Doran, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 8/05/17).

Berger Appointment

N.C. Senate leader Phil Berger has been appointed to the executive committee of the Republican Legislative Campaign Committee, the organization announced this month. Berger will join about a dozen other GOP legislative leaders from across the country in leading the organization, which helps Republicans win majorities in state legislatures.

"With 69 of 99 legislative chambers controlled by Republicans, there has never been a better time to be a Republican legislative leader," RLCC chairman Mike Turzai, the Pennsylvania House speaker, said in a news release. "Following our productive meeting in Atlanta, these executive committee members are prepared and ready to help spread the success stories of Republican leadership to voters ahead of the 2018 midterms."(THE INSIDER, 8/07/17).

Public Notices

Guilford County commissioners support a bill that would move public notices from newspapers to county websites. The Board of Commissioners last week approved a resolution supporting N.C. House Bill 205, which seeks to allow legal notices to be posted on county-run websites instead of, or along with, being published in a newspaper. Commissioners approved the resolution 4-3 along party lines. Commissioners Alan Perdue and Carlvena Foster were absent.

The governor vetoed the bill, but it could still become law if legislators override the veto. State Sen. Trudy Wade, R-Guilford, championed the bill, saying it modernizes the distribution of legal notices for a variety of public actions, hearings and court cases.

Critics, including News & Record publisher Daniel Finnegan, have said the bill would diminish the media's watchdog role by granting government officials complete control over the issuance and dissemination of public information.(Kate Elizabeth Queram, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 8/03/17).

Prison Training

State officials have announced that they will train new prison officers far more quickly -- a change intended to help officers defend themselves and make prisons safer. The new approach, unveiled by the state Department of Public Safety on Wednesday, addresses one of the problems identified in a recent Charlotte Observer series about corruption in state prisons.

The stories showed that newly hired officers usually get just one week of orientation before they're put to work guarding inmates who may try to manipulate or attack them. Many officers interviewed said it took months before they got a four-week basic training class, where they learned crucial skills such as how to defend themselves. Under the new approach, rookie officers will begin their basic training during their second week on the job. It's one of several steps taken by prison leaders following the newspaper's investigation. At several prisons, state officials have begun testing new ways to prevent employees from smuggling drugs, cellphones and other contraband to inmates.

This week, the Observer also reported that North Carolina will soon launch a nationwide study to find better ways to battle corruption and improve safety inside its prisons. Public Safety Secretary Erik Hooks said he hopes the new training approach will "better equip newly hired correctional officers so they excel at keeping order in the prisons for the safety of staff, inmates and ultimately the public." The change goes into effect immediately. Prison leaders say they've redirected resources to provide faster training to new hires, and that they are working to make sure that all officers who are already on the job have attended basic training.(Gavin Off and Ames Alexander, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 8/03/17).

Budget Cuts

Even as North Carolina's mental health management organizations are adjusting to cuts to their budgets ordered in this year's state budget, most of the organizations experienced another trim Thursday. That was the day that legislators came back to Raleigh for what was originally billed as a one-day session to override gubernatorial vetoes. But not enough members of the majority made it to the capital, so instead the session became about passing up some unfinished bills from the regular session and making adjustments to the state budget.

Included in House Bill 770, approved by both chambers on Thursday, was a provision cutting \$4.8 million in recurring funds, plus \$2.5 million in one-time funds from six of the state's seven mental health management agencies over the next two years. That money will be transferred to Partners Behavioral Healthcare, the seventh of the state's management organizations. Partners manages mental health services for people in eight counties in the foothills of the Appalachians stretching from the South Carolina to the Virginia borders. According to Medicaid head Dave Richard, from the Department of Health and Human Services, when lawmakers made funding cuts to all seven mental health management organizations (known as LME/MCOs), they miscalculated and cut too much from Partners' budget. So they had to make it up by taking money from other agencies.

"The legislature made the calculations on how they would do that cut," Richard said. "Partners alerted us, I think a week and a half ago, that was the case and they had been in conversations with the General Assembly." Richard said people from DHHS have been helping all of the LME/MCOs adjust to this year's cuts. "The department's position will continue to be that you have

to follow the law," Richard said. "Obviously, we want to have the least disruption as possible for populations as you're following that law."

He said he's been encouraging LME/MCOs to find creative ways to address the cuts they already have and will have to encourage more creativity to adjust to the new trims. "The Governor's budget was pretty clear about what we thought about those reductions," Richard said, "to restore all of them and use some of that restoration to actually leverage additional federal money to address some of the waiting list issues around developmental disabilities." He said his agency had nothing to do with making these further cuts. "We assumed it was something that would happen, but didn't have specifics of what the formula would look like and what the changes would be," Richard added.

Legislative leaders said the need for the adjustment was the result of a miscalculation. Rep. Nelson Dollar, R-Wake, grimaced when asked about the additional cuts. "It was truly a technical adjustment," Dollar said. "It may not feel technical in the field because you're moving money around, but it was miscalculations that were done in the allocation." He explained there was a per person formula that guided legislators' calculations, and someone made an error. "I'm sure everybody will be understanding... well, understand that those things happen, that we have to make adjustments," he added.

But Leza Wainwright, from Trillium Health Resources in the eastern part of the state, said it was a problem for her agency. "We have already issued our contracts for the fiscal year based upon the budget enacted by the General Assembly on June 28 and our budget was already extremely tight," Wainwright wrote in an email. "Our board is still pondering how to deal with the previously approved level of reductions in terms of our planned reinvestments and this will just make those decisions that much more difficult." She also said her agency had not yet received the first month's funding of the money they were allocated, "so this additional drain on reserves makes cash flow even more challenging."

House Speaker Tim Moore said there was an outcry about the fairness of one agency receiving a larger per capita cut than others. When asked whether it mattered that Partners covers Cleveland County, Moore's home base, he said that didn't factor into the decision. "I can tell you this that if that had happened in eastern North Carolina I'd be one of the first in line saying, that needs to be fair," Moore said. (Rose Hoban, NC HEALTH NEWS, 8/04/17).

Wilmington Massacre

A North Carolina Republican leader on Sunday slammed Democrats for "murdering blacks" when he referenced the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot in several tweets. NCGOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse was responding to a tweet from the N.C. Democratic Party about the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. "On this anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, let's celebrate how far we've come but remember that we must fight to keep moving forward," the organization tweeted, along with a photo of former President Barack Obama, his family and others with the John Lewis quote "If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it."

"From the party that ran a racist campaign of murder and closed the polls to blacks who were Republicans, gaining power for 100 years," Woodhouse said in one tweet. "After they murdered blacks in Wilmington, (the N.C. Democratic Party) passed what they called the White Declaration of Independence," Woodhouse wrote, adding that the party allegedly murdered black people and created a "grandfather clause" to keep survivors from voting. "The Wilmington Riot of 1898 was not an act of spontaneous violence," Woodhouse wrote. "The events of Nov. 10, 1898 were a result of the long-range campaign strategy by Democratic Party leaders to regain political control of Wilmington – at that time (the) state's most populous city – and North Carolina in the name of white supremacy."

When asked about his tweets, Woodhouse cited the Wikipedia and Encyclopedia of North Carolina entries on the 1898 event that NPR called "the only coup d'état in U.S. history." A mob of white supremacists armed with rifles and pistols marched on City Hall in Wilmington, N.C., on Nov. 10 and overthrew the elected local government, forcing both black and white officials to resign and running many out of town. The coup was the culmination of a race riot in which whites torched offices of a black newspaper and killed a number of black residents. No one is sure how many

African-Americans died that day because of a lack of records, but some estimates say as many as 90 were killed, and possibly hundreds more were expelled from the city.

Despite their defeat in 1865, Confederates still were devoted to white dominion. For many white Southerners, black citizenship remained unacceptable and justified any level of violence. Ku Klux Klan terrorism swept the South. As the federal government became increasingly reluctant to protect the rights of former slaves, white terrorism and electoral fraud brought about the end of Reconstruction. The Conservatives, who later changed their name to the Democrats, took power across the region by 1876, and worked hard to limit black voting. The Wilmington insurgency, also known as the Wilmington Massacre of 1898, was planned by powerful white Democrats, after the party lost its grip on power in North Carolina four years earlier and planned to take back control from a biracial Republican Party in the 1898 elections. Southern Democrats campaigned that year on a platform of white supremacy and protecting white women from black men.

The statewide election in 1898 put Democrats back in power and the party began passing a series of Jim Crow laws in 1899, along with additional voting restrictions that would further disenfranchise blacks through a poll tax and literacy tests. The "Solid South," or the near monopoly the Democratic Party held over much of the South began to fall apart beginning in 1948 when some Southern Democrats who disapproved of desegregation and other policies of

Democratic President Harry Truman formed the "States Rights Democratic Party" in support of then-South Carolina Gov. Strom Thurmond in his bid for the presidency.

So-called "Dixiecrats," a segregationist party opposed to perceived federal government overreach and in favor of Jim Crow laws, were able to gain a foothold in several Southern states, but struggled to remain a prominent political party following the election. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 also led to some Southern Democrats turning against Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson, voting for his opponent, Barry Goldwater. Later years saw the Republican Party becoming more conservative while the Democratic Party grew more liberal, leading more and more conservative Democrats to vote Republican beginning at the national level and later at the state and local level.(Abbie Bennett, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 8/06/17).

Running

A vocal supporter of President Donald Trump plans to challenge U.S. Rep. David Price in North Carolina's 4th Congressional district. Lee A. Brian, a Republican who owns a small film and publishing company in Raleigh, has launched a campaign committee called "Deplorables for Lee A. Brian," a reference to the term used by Trump supporters after Democrat Hillary Clinton's "basket of deplorables" comment last year. On her campaign website, Brian calls on supporters to "elect a fellow Basement Dwelling Deplorable, who is not afraid to roll up her sleeves to get the job done to make sure Trump's eight years in office are a rockin' success!" Brian's Federal Election Commission filing lists an address in Clayton, outside Price's district, but residency in a congressional district isn't a requirement to run for the seat.(THE INSIDER, 8/07/17).

Chemours Legal Actions

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality has been served with a federal grand jury subpoena requesting information related to an ongoing investigation into Chemours' permit to discharge the unregulated compound GenX into the Cape Fear River. News of a federal investigation came on the same day the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) announced it intends to sue Chemours and DuPont in federal court to enforce federal regulations governing discharges of pollutants at Fayetteville Works. "Ultimately, a lot of this information and these claims are claims we hope the state is looking into and the state will act on," said CFPUA board chairman Mike Brown. "The state is the regulating authority. They have standing and responsibility to enforce the Clean Water Act."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina issued the criminal subpoena to DEQ last week. The subpoena requests that by Aug. 22 the state agency provide to a Wilmington grand jury permits, environmental compliance information, reports and correspondence about Chemours' Fayetteville Works facility, GenX and other fluorinated chemicals. A spokesman for the Eastern District of North Carolina would neither "confirm nor deny" subpoenas were issued and refused to comment further on the ongoing investigation. A DEQ spokesman said the agency will work with the federal prosecutors.

Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo said he anticipated legal action would start sooner, but believes it becomes more necessary as more information trickles out. "It took us all some time to figure out the impact, the enormity of it, the outrage that was being shared with us by citizens and just try to wrap our arms around this issue," he said.(Kevin Maurer and Vaughn Hagerty, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 8/04/17).

GenX Talks

A hectic Thursday kept local legislators and state officials from holding a scheduled meeting in Raleigh to discuss the specifics of Gov. Roy Cooper's planned funding request to address water quality concerns raised by Wilmington's GenX dilemma. Rep. Ted Davis, R-New Hanover, reserved a room for the meeting, which was scheduled to include legislators from Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties, as well as staff from Cooper's office and state departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services. But the meeting, which was supposed to take place 15 minutes after the day's legislative activities, didn't happen.

"It was just a nightmare, and that's why the meeting never took place," Davis said. "It just got to be so late, it was right before 5 p.m., I just told everybody it couldn't happen." Area Republicans have expressed concern that they do not yet have the specifics of Cooper's announced plan to ask for about \$3 million in funding to walk back cuts to DEQ, hire water quality staff, and create a four-member Water Health Safety Unit within DHHS. Thursday's meeting was intended to provide some of those specifics. "I was disappointed that we were not able to meet," Davis said, "because I was looking forward to some details about what was being proposed, rationale about what was being proposed."

Rep. Deb Butler, D-New Hanover, said Friday that she had hoped the planned meeting would be used to reiterate some legislators' support for the funding. Butler also expressed interest in signing on as one of the co-sponsors of the eventual bill that would carry the appropriations request -- ideally with at least one of the area's Republican House members. "There are certain issues regardless of party that are important enough that you've got to stand up," Butler said. "This is not just Wilmington or New Hanover County. ... Water quality is certainly a statewide issue."

During his July 24 visit to Wilmington, Cooper announced several actions regarding GenX -- including asking for the emergency appropriation at this week's special legislative session. "We'll be fiscally responsible about it, we'll do what we need," the governor told the assembled officials. While Cooper was in Wilmington, Davis said he would be willing to share whatever plan was brought forth with other members of the House leadership -- a commitment he reiterated Friday afternoon.(Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 8/04/17).

Guilty Plea

A Pitt County man faces up to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court in Wake County to conspiring to commit Medicaid fraud and perjury, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina announced Friday.

State and federal prosecutors presented evidence that Shephard Lee Spruill Jr., of Winterville, conspired with Terry Lamont Speller and Donnie Lee Phillips Jr. to defraud the health care program in connection with a Pitt County clinic called The Medical Office. Spruill, 46, had access to patient names and Medicaid ID numbers as president of a behavioral health service called Carolina Support Services, and he shared them with Speller and Phillips, the agency said in a news release. Speller and Phillips, who are already in prison, used the information to bill Medicaid for more than \$2 million in fake services and Spruill got his cut disguised as loan reimbursements, the agency said. Spruill also admitted that he lied when he testified to a federal grand jury that he had no business relationship with Speller and didn't know why Medicaid payments were being split between them, according to the report.

Through a plea agreement, Spruill is said to face up to 15 years in prison, \$500,000 in fines and three years of supervised release. He also agreed to pay nearly \$1.85 million in restitution to the state Medicaid program, and more repayment for any other fraud committed in association with Medicaid providers Carolina Support Services, Pride in North Carolina, Elite Care, Southern Support Services, One to One Youth, Vision of New Hope, Bridge Builders Youth Services and Jameson Consultants, the report said.(Aaron Moody, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 8/05/17).

Energy Meeting

The power business is a big-money industry, and Duke Energy will invest \$13 billion over the next decade in the Carolinas to keep the lights on and keep customers happy. Those customers have serious expectations from their electricity provider, Duke Energy CEO and President Lynn Good told a group of local leaders on Friday at the Biltmore Park Hilton Hotel. "Almost 99.9 percent of our customers care about how much they pay for their electricity," Good said in a lighter moment. "And 99.9 percent also care about reliability. We've become so dependent on this resource, this 24/7, perfect power expectation."

During her talk, Good stressed the importance of Duke's coming \$13 billion investment in the Carolinas over the next 10 years, with monies going to efforts to drive down outages, improve communication with customers, increase energy efficiency, "and to make our system more available and ready for renewable energy." The investment should create 14,000 jobs in the Carolinas over that time, she said.

Driven by coal ash cleanup costs, Duke Energy Progress, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, is requesting a 15 percent rate increase for North Carolina customers, which has to be approved by the N.C. Utilities Commission. That would mean \$18 more per month for the typical household bill of \$105. Duke wants consumers to pay about \$200 million a year to clean up the toxic byproducts of burning coal. The coal ash at the Lake Julian plant has caused problems with nearby homeowners' water, and it's a major concern for environmentalists.

Good said the country has about 700 coal ash basins, and Duke acquired many of its basins through mergers and acquisitions. For decades, utilities dug pits and buried the ash on site as a standard practice. "Storage of ash should be thought of as part of the provision of electric service," Good said. "You build the power plant, you operate it, you decommission it, you store the waste associated with it. And all of us benefit from that stream by using the electricity."

Duke has turned away from coal over the past decade or so, reducing carbon emissions by 30 percent since 2005 in this region, Good said. The utility is investing \$5 billion in renewable energy, including \$1 billion in the Carolinas. "As early as 2005-06 we were 60 percent coal, 40 percent nuclear," Good said of Duke's energy production techniques. "Today we're 30 percent coal, 25 percent natural gas and 40 percent nuke. We've retired half our coal units in the state."

Duke operates 11 nuclear plants in the Carolinas, including three in North Carolina. The utility wants to keep them running as long as possible, she said.(John Boyle, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 8/04/17).

Unaffiliated Candidate

The N.C. General Assembly passed a new law Thursday that clears the way for a member of the Cleveland County School Board to run for re-election. School board member Kathy Falls was practically barred from seeking re-election this year when the legislature passed a bill in the final hours of its regular session in June that switched the election for Cleveland County School board from non-partisan to partisan. Falls, who is registered as an unaffiliated voter, would have had to have collected thousands of signatures in less than 24 hours in order to qualify for the ballot.

Republican House Speaker Tim Moore, who represents Cleveland County, told WBTV the bill was an oversight that came as a result of trying to quickly pass legislation at the end of a session. Falls hired an attorney who got a judge to issue an order temporarily altering the law last month. The new bill requires Falls to get the signatures of 500 registered voters in Cleveland County in order to qualify to run for re-election in 2017. The change only applies to this year's election.(Nick Ochsner, WBTV NEWS, 8/04/17).

Agriculture Curriculum

An administrator at N.C. State University believes College of The Albemarle is on track to put together an agriculture curriculum that could help students either transfer to the university or go directly into the workforce. John Dole, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University, said he and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean Richard Linton met with COA President Robert Wynegar in Elizabeth City two weeks ago to discuss plans for COA's program. COA officials have indicated they hope to launch an agriculture program in the fall of 2018. Wynegar said the community college hopes to have transfer agreements with

N.C. state in place by the end of December and hire faculty in the spring of next year in anticipation of a fall 2018 start.

Wynegar said the original proposal from N.C. State was for one year of work at COA followed by three years at the university, but the two institutions are now working on a program that allows students to complete two years of the work at COA. N.C. State hopes one outcome of the COA agriculture program will be students transferring from COA to the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as agriculture majors, according to Dole. That hope is rooted partly in Dole's personal experience. He explained that he was the first person in his family to go to college and attended a community college for the first two years of his college degree because of the savings it offered his family. But Dole also acknowledged that not all the COA students who study agriculture will want or need to complete a four-year degree.

Dole said the job outlook in agriculture in North Carolina is good. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has found that it generally has job opportunities waiting for its students when they graduate, Dole said. The one exception is students who want to work in a particular area of the state — especially if they want to live in a specific small town — and who are in a highly specialized major rather than a more general major. Those students usually have to choose either to work in a field other than their major in order to live where they want to live or to move somewhere else in order to land a job in their field, Dole explained. (Reggie Ponder, THE (Elizabeth City) DAILY ADVANCE, 8/06/17).

Pipeline Support

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline has drawn its share of criticism and support from the Roanoke Valley community, and two local mayors are now backing the pipeline. In an open letter addressed to the residents of eastern North Carolina, Roanoke Rapids Mayor Emery Doughtie, Garysburg Mayor Roy Bell and several others from outside the Valley asked residents to support the pipeline, calling it a vital economic opportunity for the state. The mayors listed five reasons why the pipeline would be a boon to their respective municipalities: jobs, investments, economic development, lower energy bills and cleaner energy. Doughtie said it will also be dependable.

"One thing, it will be a reliable source of energy that can come through our area because it's coming from America," the mayor said. "We're not dependent on it coming from other countries, other parts of the world." The pipeline would transport natural gas from West Virginia and roughly follow Interstate 95 once it crosses the North Carolina border. Although it barely passes through Halifax County, a large swath of it will be in Northampton County.

For many of the small North Carolina cities and towns it runs past, Doughtie said there will be positive economic impacts. A new energy source would open the door for new manufacturing and other jobs to not only come to the area, he said, but also the rest of eastern North Carolina and the southeastern United States. The pipeline will run straight through Garysburg and Bell reflected Doughtie's sentiment, saying it will bring more jobs. "In order to bring new industry or any businesses at all, you've got to have some type of energy that they can use," he said.

Bell said he's seen Garysburg's population steadily fall from 1,250 to 1,000 people during his tenure as mayor because residents leave when they can't find jobs. He said he hopes the pipeline will help the area recover. "Northampton County is dwindling population-wise, Garysburg in particular," he said. "One of the reasons why is we can't provide any jobs. We don't have any means of attracting industries. In order to attract industries you've got to have the things they need and natural gas in one of them."

Residents and companies both contribute to the tax base of a municipality, Bell and Doughtie both said. When they grow and prosper, then the town can thrive as well. "It just spreads on out if a large industry comes here, builds a building, puts in additional infrastructure that just compounds the tax benefits from the initial project," he said. (Gareth Farrell, THE (Roanoke Rapids) DAILY HERALD, 8/04/17).

Brunch Bill

No more waiting till noon to have a mimosa with your brunch in Guilford County. The Guilford County Board of Commissioners voted 6-1 Thursday to amend the county's alcohol ordinance, allowing businesses with alcohol permits to begin selling beer, wine and spirits at 10 a.m. on Sundays. It was the board's second vote on the matter, necessary because the first was not

unanimous. Commissioner Carolyn Coleman was the lone dissent each time. The change takes effect immediately, and affects unincorporated areas in the county as well as Piedmont Triad International Airport.(Kate Elizabeth Queram, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 8/04/17).

Disaster Loans

Another opportunity for small businesses in Kinston to acquire loans after a disaster became available Thursday when the Carolina Small Business Development Fund came to town to offer its services. Larry Biggs, business development officer for the Small Business Development Fund, a nonprofit, said when state legislators enacted the Disaster Recovery Act in 2016 it provided more than \$100 million in disaster recovery funds. Of those funds, \$5 million appropriated to the GoldenLEAF Foundation, was earmarked for small businesses impacted by Hurricane Matthew and tropical storms Hermine and Julia, and wildfires that occurred in the western part of the state, Biggs said.

Hurricane Matthew, which devastated parts of Kinston last October and damaging floods from the tropical storms impacted more than 30,000 businesses statewide and displaced nearly half a million employees, Biggs said. The \$5 million set aside for small business recovery was provided as "gap financing" to businesses that might need more than loans already acquired and to help those who might have been turned down for a Small Business Administration loan, according to Biggs.

Nearly a year since Hurricane Matthew, Biggs said he is seeing more economic injury loans being issued than recovery or rebuilding loans. The economic injury loans are for small businesses that lost revenue due to a disaster, like when workers could not make it to their place of employment and the business may have been closed. Businesses are also eligible for those loans if they stayed open and were not damaged but may have lost revenue because they could not ship their products due to flooding, Biggs said.

Biggs said business owners would have to use their businesses as collateral for the loan. Adrian King, of the Kinston Area Recovery Efforts, said a surprising effect of Hurricane Matthew that is lingering is infestation of termites in buildings that were flooded. Kinston Area Recovery Efforts is a nonprofit formed after Hurricane Floyd in 1999 to help with the long term recovery in Kinston.(Eddie Fitzgerald, THE (Kinston) FREE PRESS, 8/04/17).

Transgender School Policy

While it is a simple administrative policy, it's also a matter of protection -- and even life and death -- transgender advocates say. About two dozen supporters of a rising first-grade transgender student attended Thursday's Buncombe County School Board meeting, calling for a system-wide policy that would extend anti-discrimination protections to transgender students. But judging from comments by the school board chairwoman and the system's superintendent, it seems unlikely the Buncombe County School Board will create a new policy.

The saga of Emma, a transgender student who lives in Arden with her parents and brother, began last year when she enrolled in kindergarten at Glen Arden Elementary. She was enrolled as a boy named Colton, the name on her birth certificate, but the parents said they notified the school early on that their daughter was transgender. The girl's parents, Amy and Kevin, went public earlier this year with their struggles to find support for their daughter, who at points during the last school year was denied access to the girls restroom. She was also told by a teacher that she was a boy, not a girl. Emma had to switch classrooms a few months into the school year because her first kindergarten teacher refused to use her female name or female pronouns. While the school year ended more positively, the parents pushed for a policy change so all staff and teachers have guidelines to follow with transgender students.

"A child in a school following a policy would never be left to urinate on themselves due to the teacher being unclear about the superintendent's guidelines," Amy said to the board, pausing as she choked up. "Teachers at a school following policy would be competent and precise in handling this situation." Amy asked that the board add to its agenda a policy providing training to everyone in contact with children, so they know it is unacceptable to argue with a child that is questioning their gender, or to belittle them for how they perceive themselves. Also, staff should never make a rule that applies only to a transgender student, such as a "no hugging" rule Amy said was imposed on Emma.

While the board listened carefully, a new policy seems unlikely. Members did not respond to the speakers, but during a break both Board Chairwoman Ann Franklin and Superintendent Tony Baldwin said the current anti-bullying policy provides adequate protections. Franklin, speaking for the entire seven-member board, said they are not considering a policy specifically addressing transgender students. Baldwin said he expects the board will discuss the issue, but he believes the current anti-bullying policy, which doesn't reference any particular group, provides protection. Buncombe County's school board doesn't have a policy specifically protecting transgender students or clarifying what bathrooms they can use. The system does have policies protecting students against discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and bullying.(John Boyle, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 8/04/17).

Fort Fisher

When the Fort Fisher State Historic Site hosted 150th anniversary celebrations of the Civil War in 2015, it saw 23,000 people in 48 hours -- nearly as many as its visitors center was built to accommodate in a year. "Talk about overwhelmed," said Keith Hardison, the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' director of N.C. Historical Sites. "We felt a bit like the defenders of Fort Fisher, with the Union forces coming over, around and through. That underscored the need. The need is great, it's only going to get larger."

Susi Hamilton, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, and her staff on Friday hosted an event at the existing visitor center where they announced the selection of firm Clark Nexsen for the design of a new 20,000-square-foot Fort Fisher visitors center, which would replace the existing facility. The new visitors center is planned to feature a 150-seat great hall, similar-sized auditorium, indoor classroom and expanded gift shop, among many other features. "We're going to set a really incredible example about how to build a new visitors center to accommodate the public," Hamilton said, "and do it in a way that is engaging and open and accessible to everyone."

Hamilton thanked Rep. Ted Davis, R-New Hanover, for securing \$5 million in funding for the project after it was initially zeroed out in the N.C. Senate's budget. While the project received \$5 million in funding in the 2017-18 two-year budget, it will still need support from private donors and likely another appropriation in the next budget.(Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 8/04/17).

OBX Reopens

They came by the hundreds: cars and SUVs loaded with bikes and beach gear, vacationers shut out of the lower Outer Banks this past week due to a power outage. They were eager to salvage a few last days or get an early start on previously threatened plans, and began queuing up hours before Friday's announced noon reopening.

Vehicles lined N.C. 12 north of the Bonner Bridge and filled nearby parking lots, directed by sheriff's deputies. Antsy families from Pennsylvania, Indiana and Canada mingled and commiserated. At 11:59 a.m. a Cape Hatteras National Seashore ranger gave the OK. Vehicles began streaming across the bridge accompanied by whoops, beeping horns and shouts of "let's go!" The lots emptied in under 10 minutes. And just like that, the tourist season on Hatteras and Ocracoke islands returned to normal. Almost.

Business was still slower than a typical summer day. An unknown number of vacationers didn't return for the end of their weeks or scrapped plans altogether after workers building a replacement Bonner Bridge accidentally severed the two islands' power lines July 27, forcing a mandatory evacuation of nonresidents.

An hour after traffic began streaming across the bridge, business remained slow in the Hatteras Island villages. N.C. 12 was not quite as trafficked as usual, and parking lots remained largely vacant. People still were unpacking from their drives and settling in. After a tough week without customers, shop owners are hoping two weather disturbances in the Atlantic Ocean do not develop into hurricanes, said Ollie Jarvis, owner of Dillon's Corner in Buxton. Hurricanes hit the Outer Banks regularly and can knock out power, cause flooding and create calls for an evacuation – the last thing needed in these parts now. "We're hoping no storms come," he said.(Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 8/04/17).

Bridge Name

A movement to name a new bridge on N.C. 12 after Capt. Richard Etheridge, the first African-American to command a U.S. Life-Saving Service station, has passed a major hurdle and appears well on its way to becoming a reality. At the Aug. 3 meeting of the North Carolina Board of Transportation meeting, Chairman Michael Fox informed the board that the Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee had unanimously voted on Aug. 1 to name the N.C. 12 Pea Island Interim Bridge for Etheridge. The bridge will replace one that was quickly built over a breach created by Hurricane Irene in 2011. The action was unanimously approved by the committee and will be brought before the full Board of Transportation at its next meeting Sept. 6 and 7. (Russ Lay, THE OUTER BANKS VOICE, 8/04/17).

Whooping Cough

Forsyth County health officials warned Friday about an increase since early June of local cases of whooping cough, also known as pertussis. Pertussis is a highly contagious, but preventable, bacterial infection that causes uncontrollable, violent coughing lasting up to 10 weeks. Medical providers check for pertussis through a test that requires only a nasal swab. "We have investigated 17 cases of pertussis; of those nine were investigated June through July," said Jennifer Corso, communicable disease nurse supervisor for the county Health Department. The warning comes out about three weeks before the start of the 2017-18 school year. "We have had an outbreak in adolescents and wanted to take the opportunity to encourage parents to make sure their children are current on vaccine, especially with the start of school in the near future," Corso said.

State health officials issued earlier this week their annual vaccination alert to parents of kindergartners and rising seventh- graders. State law requires all students in those two classes to be up to date on their pertussis vaccination before the beginning of the school year. If they are not, they are not allowed to attend school. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 8/04/17).

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **Bold** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Friday, Aug. 18

- Noon | House convenes in session.
- Noon | Senate convenes in session.

Thursday, Aug. 24

- 10 a.m. | North Carolina Courts Commission meets, 643 LOB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

- 8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development and Communications Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley: [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).
- 10 a.m. | The Department of Insurance holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Room 131 (Albemarle Building) located at 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold a public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in Onslow County, North Topsail Beach Town Center, 2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach.

Thursday, Aug. 10

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold a public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in New Hanover County, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Wilmington Regional Office, 127 Cardinal Drive Ext., Wilmington.

Friday, Aug. 11

- 10 a.m. | The NC Trails Committee (NCTC) meets, DNCR Regional Office, 176 Riceville Road. Asheville.

Wednesday, Aug. 16

- 10:30 a.m. | The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wake Technical Community College-Public Safety Training Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Aug. 17

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Monday, Aug. 21

- 11 a.m. | The Executive Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley: [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Friday, Aug. 25

- 11 a.m. | The Finance and Audit Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley: [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Friday, Sept. 1

- 6:30 p.m. | N.C. State Board of Dental Examiners holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 2000 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 160, Morrisville.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Social Services Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Division of Social Services, 820 South Boylan Ave., Conference Room 151, Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 14

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 28

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Wilmington District Office, 127 North Cardinal Dr. Extension, Wilmington.

Thursday, Oct. 5

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Monday, Aug. 7

- 5 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality hold public hearings on potential oil and gas leasing program, New Hanover Government Center, 230 Government Center Drive, Suite 135, Wilmington.

Wednesday, Aug. 9

- 5 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality hold public hearings on potential oil and gas leasing program, Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St., Morehead City.

Thursday, Aug. 10

- 5 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality hold public hearings on potential oil and gas leasing program, Dare County Government Complex, 954 Marshall Collins Drive, Manteo.

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in BOLD**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Monday, Aug. 7

- 3 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Campus Security Committee Subcommittee on Training Guidance, Conference Room B, Spangler Building, Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Tuesday, Aug. 8

- 11 a.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Campus Security Committee Subcommittee on Data Collection Protocol, Conference Room B, Spangler Building, Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Wednesday, Aug. 9

- 12 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Campus Security Committee Subcommittee on Safety and Security Conference, Conference Room B, Spangler Building, Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Friday, Sept. 8

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Nov. 3

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, Aug. 7

- Staff Conference

Monday, Aug. 14

- Staff Conference

Monday, Aug. 21

- Staff Conference

Monday, Aug. 28

- Staff Conference

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Monday, Aug. 14

- No time given | U.S. Small Business Administration deadline for businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in North Carolina to submit disaster loan applications for damages caused by the severe storms on May 30.

Friday, Sept. 8

- No Time Given | The 77th Annual National Folk Festival opens in Downtown Greensboro for its third year in the state. Contact: Kaitlin Smith, [336-373-7523](tel:336-373-7523), ext 246.

Sunday, Sept. 24

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Young Bankers Conference, Crowne Plaza Asheville Resort, Asheville.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

Monday, Nov. 6

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

Insider State Government News Service

P.O. Box 191, Raleigh, N.C. 27602-9150

Customer Service [\(919\) 836-2807](tel:(919)836-2807)

Legislative Office [\(919\) 832-8358](tel:(919)832-8358)

www.ncinsider.com

Colin Campbell, Editor (ccampbell@ncinsider.com) - [\(919\) 829-4698](tel:(919)829-4698)

Lauren Horsch, Insider Reporter (lhorsch@ncinsider.com) - [\(919\) 836-2801](tel:(919)836-2801)

Matthew Betts, Customer Service Manager (mbetts@ncinsider.com) - [\(919\) 836-2807](tel:(919)836-2807)

Graham Hoppe, Production Editor (ghoppe@ncinsider.com) - [\(919\) 829-8951](tel:(919)829-8951)

Clifton Dowell, General Manager (cdowell@ncinsider.com) - [\(919\) 836-2804](tel:(919)836-2804)

© Copyright 2017 The Insider. Any reproduction or retransmission of The Insider North Carolina State Government News Service, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and strictly prohibited without permission. All rights reserved.

Email correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.